Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a message from an originating network element at an interface of a service application, wherein the service application interfaces with both a Signaling System 7 (SS7) network and an Internet Protocol (IP) network, and wherein the message includes a point code associated with the originating network element;

accessing a network selection table comprised within a MT3 API level of a protocol stack to determine how to process the message, wherein the protocol stack comprises both a message transport part layer 3 (MTP3) layer and a MTP3 user adaptation layer (M3UA) layer, and wherein the network selection table comprises entries that associate point codes with network types;

processing the message with the MTP3 layer if it is determined that the point code associated with the originating network element corresponds to the SS7 network; and

processing the message with the M3UA layer if it is determined that the point code associated with the originating network element corresponds to the IP network.

2. (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the service application comprises a home location register (HLR) or a service control point (SCP).

3. (Canceled)

4.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein the network selection table is populated automatically.

5.   (Currently Amended) A device, comprising:

a communication interface configured to receive a message from an originating network element, wherein the device interfaces with both a Signaling System 7 (SS7) network and an Internet Protocol (IP) network, and wherein the message includes a point code associated with the originating network element;

a processor; and

a computer-readable storage medium including computer-readable instruction stored therein that, upon execution by the processor, cause the device to:

access a network selection table comprised within a MT3 API level of a protocol stack to determine how to process the message, wherein the protocol stack comprises both a message transport part layer 3 (MTP3) layer and a MTP3 user adaptation layer (M3UA) layer, and wherein the network selection table comprises entries that associate point codes with network types;

process the message with the MTP3 layer if it is determined that the point code associated with the originating network element corresponds to the SS7 network; and

process the message with the M3UA layer if it is determined that the point code associated with the originating network element corresponds to the IP network.

6.   (Previously Presented)   The device according to claim 5, wherein the device comprises a home location register (HLR) or a service control point (SCP).

7.   (Canceled)

8.   (Currently Amended) The device according to claim [[7]] 5, wherein the network selection table is populated automatically.

9.   (Currently Amended) The device according to claim [[7]] 5, wherein network selection table is populated manually.

10.   (Currently Amended)   The device according to claim 5, wherein the network selection table comprised within the MT3 API level of the protocol stack is separate from a routing table in the MTPS MTP3 layer.

11.   (Previously Presented)   The device according to claim 5, wherein the device is not a signaling gateway.

12.   (Previously Presented)   The device according to claim 5, wherein the originating network element is a service switching point (SSP) or a message switching center (MSC).

13.   (Currently Amended)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the network selection table comprised within the MT3 API level of the protocol stack is separate from a routing table in the MTPS MTP3 layer.

14.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein the network selection table is populated manually.

15.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the service application is not a signaling gateway.

16.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the originating network element is a service switching point (SSP) or a message switching center (MSC).